

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner states that the inventions of Groups II and I are related as process of making and product made under M.P.E.P. § 806.05(f) and that the product, as claimed, can be made by another and materially different process, such as first disc refining the fibers, which causes fibrillation and then assembling into a nonwoven fabric.

However, the Examiner has not explained how the use of a disc with the fibers of Group I would produce a nonwoven fabric with the fibrillation of fibers produced by the process of Group II. Therefore, it is submitted that the requirements for restriction of M.P.E.P. § 806.05(f) have not been met and it is requested that the claims of Group II be rejoined and examined in the present application.

Further, Applicants traverse the restriction on the grounds that thousands of U.S. patents have issued in which many more than two subclasses have been searched and the Patent and Trademark Office cannot reasonably assert that a burden exists in searching only two subclasses.

Finally, if the claims of Group I are ultimately found allowable, it is requested that the claims of Group II be rejoined under M.P.E.P. § 821.04 and allowed in the present application, also.

Accordingly, for the reasons presented above, it is submitted that the Patent and Trademark Office has failed to meet the burden necessary to sustain the Restriction Requirement. Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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